

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01477 200012Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W
-----050370 210655Z /11

R 190813Z MAY 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0807
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1477

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PK CH

SUBJ: BHUTTO'S FATE

REF: (A) TEHRAN4546 (B) STATE 125384 (C) ISLAMABAD 4967

1. USLO HAS HEARD NOTHING IN PEKING TO INDICATE THAT PRC
WOULD ACCEPT BHUTTO UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. ALTHOUGH
PRC HAS WELCOMED A NUMBER OF EXILES IN THE PAST WHO WERE
NOT MEMBERS OF FRATERNAL PARTIES OR ORGANIZATIONS -- MOST
NOTABLY PRINCE SIHANOUK -- THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE
PEKING WOULD SEE ANY ADVANTAGE IN OFFERING A HAVEN TO
BHUTTO AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE CURRENT
PAK GOVERNMENT. THE MOST PROMINENT "EXILE" STILL IN
PEKING IS THE INDONESIAN COMMUNIST LEADER AJITOROP, WHO
IS GIVEN A SEAT OF HONOR AT PUBLIC EVENTS ON NATIONAL
HOLIDAYS BUT WHO OTHERWISE IS RARELY SEEN AND NEVER PUBLICIZED.
DECLINE IN PRC MEDIA ATTENTION TO AJITOROP CAN BE TRACED
DIRECTLY TO PRC INTEREST IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS ITH
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JAKARTA.

2. FROM THE PCR STANDPOINT, THE ONLY CONCEIVABLE RATIONALE
FOR ACCEPTING BHUTTO AS AN EXILE WOULD BE TO WIN A CERTAIN
AMOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL APPLAUSE FOR ITS HUMANITARIAN STANCE
OR TO SHOW SPECIAL FAVOR TO AN "OLD FRIEND". NEITHER
REASON WOULD SUFFICE TO CAUSE THE PRC TO EXERT ANY PRESSURE

ON THE PAK GOVERNMENT.

3. HENCE THE PRC HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE KNOWN -- IN VERY
LOW-KEY FASHION -- ITS CONCERN FOR THE FATE OF BHUTTO.
THE DAILY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE FOREIGN PRESS SUMMARY, AND
PRESUMABLY THE DAILY CHINESE-LANGUAGE RESTRICTED
CIRCULATION SUMMARY OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS AS WELL, HAS
RUN A NUMBER OF STORIES ON THE PROGRESS OF THE BHUTTO CASE.
THE MAY 18 SUMMARY, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIES A MAY 17 REUTER
ITEM FROM RAWALPINDI ON PREPARATION FOR A HEARING OF
BHUTTO'S APPEAL BY THE PAKISTAN SUPREME COURT.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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